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CONFIDENTIAL

1 February 1956

OGC Has
Reviewed

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Support)

SUBJECT: Payment for Storage of Personal Effects; Personnel
Assigned to Non-emergency Areas

1. WE Division has raised the question of the legality of paying the cost of storage of furniture and household and personal effects of certain employees assigned to permanent duty stations [REDACTED]. The problem has arisen in regard to a number of employees because they have been transferred from positions in [REDACTED] which is considered an emergency area, to their present positions in [REDACTED] which is a non-emergency area. [REDACTED]

2. The WE Division points out that if we are unable to pay storage costs in cases where employees have been transferred for the convenience of the Agency, an inequitable situation exists. If these employees had been assigned [REDACTED] from the United States, they would have known that storage costs could not be paid and would have shipped their furniture at Government expense or stored it, knowing that the cost of storage would be a personal expense. In the cases at issue, however, the employees were transferred from the United States to an emergency area and were allowed to ship only a limited amount of household and personal effects. After being transferred [REDACTED] they had no need to have the furniture shipped there from the United States for the remainder of their tours. It is noted that shipment, which would be at Government expense, involves costs far in excess of the cost of storage.


3. The State Department evidently recognized a similar problem several years ago and through their Annual Appropriations Act, since fiscal 1954, have had authority to pay storage costs when an employee is assigned to a post "at which he is unable to use" his furniture and effects, without regard to the existence of emergency

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conditions.



6. It should be noted that the extent of this problem is probably very limited inasmuch as several bills have been submitted for action by this session of Congress which will authorize payment of storage costs without regard to the existence of emergency conditions. It seems very likely that through passage of one bill or another, we will gain this authority. In such a case the problem will not be a continuing one and will have a definite cut-off date.

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We will, in effect, be treating it as we have similar problems in the past, such as that of payment of overseas allowances to employees assigned to [REDACTED] where we established a certain cut-off date allowing, in effect, forgiveness of "windfall" allowances paid without authority in the past and from the cut-off date forward, complied with the law then in effect.

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Office of General Counsel

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